

Coaldale Town Council Suspends Photo Radar Program; Backlogged Tickets Will Be Issued as Warnings

Council will reassess the long-term viability of the Town's photo radar program in the first quarter of 2026.

During its September 22, 2025, Special Council Meeting, Coaldale Town Council voted to suspend the operation of the Town's Automated Traffic Enforcement ("photo radar") program for the remainder of 2025, and to convert a growing backlog of tickets into warnings rather than fines.

The move comes in response to ongoing negotiations between Canada Post and members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and in response to the Town's own ongoing labour stoppage.

On May 13, 2025, a letter was sent from the province to all enforcement agencies explaining that should a postal interruption occur, service of all violation tickets sent by mail will be impacted, and that appropriate mitigation measures should be taken – including hanging onto tickets until such time that the potential for a postal interruption has passed.

The potential for a postal interruption over the past four and a half months has limited the Town's ability to deliver tickets in a timely manner, which Council determined was unfair to Town residents.

"Council's view is that if you receive a traffic violation, it should be delivered to you in a timely manner—not months later due to circumstances beyond your control," said Town of Coaldale, Mayor Jack Van Rijn. "If it's about safety and correcting behavior, residents should be informed that they've committed an infraction in a timely manner. That's why we directed that the backlog of tickets be issued as warnings. We don't believe it would be fair to residents to issue those as fines at this stage. At the same time, by suspending the photo radar program for the balance of the year, we're giving ourselves the space to carefully reassess whether this tool makes sense for Coaldale going forward."

In December of last year, the Government of Alberta announced the following changes to photo radar:

- prohibiting photo radar on all provincial highways and connectors;

- restricting photo radar speed enforcement to school, playground and construction zones; and
- restricting Intersection Safety Devices (ISDs) to red-light enforcement only.

For more information about these changes, and to read the 2025 ATW Technology Guideline, please visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/photo-radar-alberta>.

What's Happening in the Community?

On Thursday, October 9th, Saturday, October 11th, Tuesday, October 14th, and Saturday, October 18th, advance voting for Coaldale's 2025 Municipal Election will take place from 2:00-8:00pm at the Coaldale Community Centre. To vote you must be at least 18 years of age; a Canadian citizen; and a permanent resident of Coaldale. Please bring one piece of ID that includes your name and current address. Photo ID is not required. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/2025-municipal-election>.

On Wednesday, October 15th, the Coaldale Senior Curling League will hold its first meeting of the season at 1:00pm. Please arrive 15 minutes early so teams can be organized. The cost is \$250 for the season. For additional information, please call 403-359-0352 or 403-317-3987.

On Monday, October 20th, the Town of Coaldale will hold its 2025 General Municipal Election. Voting will take place at the Coaldale Community Centre from 10:00am-8:00pm. To vote you must be at least 18 years of age; a Canadian citizen; and a permanent resident of Coaldale. Please bring one piece of ID that includes your name and current address. Photo ID is not required. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/2025-municipal-election>.

From Tuesday, October 28th to Thursday, October 30th, step into the spooky halls of Coaldale's Haunted School. The Town of Coaldale is transforming the old John Davidson School into a chilling haunted house, filled with eerie sights and surprises around every corner. Coaldale's Haunted School will be open daily from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Admission is free; however, donations of cash, cheque or non-perishable food items for the Coaldale Food Bank are greatly appreciated.

Making Your Voice Heard: Coaldale’s 2025 Municipal Election

The 2025 Municipal Election will take place on Monday, October 20, from 10:00am to 8:00pm at the Coaldale Community Center.

The stage is set for Coaldale’s 2025 Municipal Election. On Monday, October 20, 2025, residents will head to the polls to elect a new Town Council, including one Mayor and six Councillors, who will serve the community for the next four years.

With the close of nominations on September 22, the official list of candidates is now finalized:

For Mayor	For Councillor
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Henry DoeveJack Van Rijn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jacen AbreyJason BeekmanEric BernsBill ChapmanBrent GintherDale PickeringLisa ReisJordan SailerGary Scherer

Candidate videos are now available on the Town’s website so residents can learn more about who is running to represent them.

When and Where to Vote

All voting will take place at the Coaldale Community Centre (1217–20 Avenue) on the following dates:

- Election Day:** Monday, October 20, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Advance Voting:** October 9, 11, 14, and 18, from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Institutional Vote:** Sunny South Lodge on October 20 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Vote by Appointment:** Residents of the Coaldale Long Term Care facility may vote by appointment, and home-visit voting options are available for eligible residents with disabilities. To schedule either option, please contact the Returning Officer.

Be Ready to Vote

To avoid delays, residents are encouraged to verify their voter registration status in advance through Elections Alberta’s Voterlink. Unregistered voters can still vote on Election Day, but must complete an eligibility statement before receiving a ballot.

Other Key Details


- Ballot Count:** Ballots will be counted by hand. We appreciate residents’ patience as results are tallied on Election Night.
- Election Signs:** Signs are permitted until October 22, but only on private property, not on Town-owned property.
- Election Workers:** The Town is still hiring election workers at \$25/hour. Applications are available online or at the Town Office.

Make Your Voice Heard

In Coaldale’s last municipal election, voter turnout in was 46%. Let’s aim even higher this year. Whether you plan to vote early at an advance poll or on October 20, your participation makes a difference in shaping the future of our community.




For full details on voting, and election updates, visit <https://www.coaldale.ca/2025-municipal-election>.

Utility Billing Options During Canada Post Strike



Due to the recent Canada Post Strike, mail from the Town of Coaldale will be disrupted. During a postal strike, residents remain responsible for paying their bills, even if they do not receive a physical copy in the mail.

How to receive your utility bill during a strike:



1. E-billing (recommended). This is the fastest and most reliable method is to receive your bills. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coaldale.ca/services/utilities/water-sewer>.

2. In-Person Pick-up. Visit the Town Office during operating hours (Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm) to pick up your bill.

3. By Phone. Call 403-345-1300, and staff can provide your balance over the phone.

